

February 24, 2000

Lacey Bloom
c/o
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Department of the Army
Walla Walla District, Corps of Engineers
201 North Third Avenue
Walla Walla, Wa 99362-1876

Attn: LOWER SNAKE RIVER STUDY

To whom it may concern:

As a citizen of the Pacific Northwest, living in a town with its roots in agriculture, I have become increasingly aware of the issue concerning the breaching of the dams. I have attended a meeting for the water coalition and been in attendance for several discussions where this issue has been considered and debated on as presented by the media and individuals who are actively involved. It is alarming to me to understand the intentions of NMFS and to imagine our situation as it would be if the dams were breached.

I have only recently become aware of how much money has been spent on these dams for the sole purpose of protecting a specific species of fish. In my opinion the livelihood of those people who rely on these dams should have more importance than the well-being of fish. We depend on these dams for our economy, and rely on the river water for irrigation to support the farms in the area, which in turn supports other businesses directly or indirectly. I agree that it is important to protect the species of fish and animals which have become endangered and to keep others from becoming endangered. I do not believe, however, that we should do these things at the cost of all that we have here in the Northwest.

The dams were put in place for flood control. Were the dams taken out, many homes, businesses, transportation routes etc. would be destroyed, creating yet another costly problem. It seems that we are too eager to take care of these fish without considering the consequences to anything but the fish, making us quick to forget why we have these dams. Do we honestly know how high the fish population was before the dams were built? I feel that our current method of protecting these fish is sufficient and does not threaten our local agriculture. As I see it, the best way to go about this is either alternative 1, maintain the existing condition, or alternative 2, increase the use of barges and trucks to transport fish. Some things are better left alone.

Sincerely,

FEB 25 2000

Lacey Bloom

Chatman, Cheryl A NWW

FEB 25 2000

From: Lacey Bloom [lacey_105@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 25, 2000 11:16 AM
To: Salmonstudy
Subject: dam breaching



Dams.jpg

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